

THE SMOKY HILL AND REPUBLICAN UNION.

"WE JOIN OURSELVES TO NO PARTY THAT DOES NOT CARRY THE FLAG, AND KEEP STEP TO THE MUSIC OF THE UNION."

By G. W. Kingsbury.

JUNCTION, DAVIS CO., KANSAS, THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 1861.

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LAST TO FADE OF ALL IS FANCY

Day by day old sorrows leave us,
Leave us, while new sorrows come,
Come like shadows, ever lengthening,
Lengthening round the spirits home.
Day by day fade friendship's flowers,
Flowers that flourished in the past—
Past—oh, past; once bright and glowing—
Glowing once, but dimmed at last.
Last to fade of all is fancy,
Fancy ever young and gay,
Gay as when young love was dreaming,
Dreaming, dreaming, day by day.

A NIGHT ADVENTURE.

BY A NORTHERN RANGER.

I was invited by a soldier of the regiment of the "Fire Zouaves," to accompany him in one of those private adventures which were so common among the men of his corps during our recent movement up on the banks of the Potomac.

This kind of expedition always carries with it a charm which inflames the imagination of the volunteer to a degree unknown in the more precise movements of a regular force. The individual courage of the man seems lost in comparison among a concentrated mass, which depends for its success not so much upon personal prowess as upon a mechanical exactitude in its evolutions.

Men of the description of my adventurous friend, are generally despisers of still colored coats and dress drill, and especial admirers of a loose jacket, and a "free fight." With them a martinet, unless he proves a fighter, is simply an abomination.

In a few words, accompanied by some mysterious gesture, my friend H— informed me that through the disclosures of a deserter, who had just arrived from the rebel lines, he had learned that a quantity of ammunition, consisting of several thousand ball cartridges for musket use, had been concealed in an upper room of a house belonging to a noted secessionist and suspected spy. This house was distant about three miles from our encampment, and the cartridges which were concealed therein, were packed in small canvas bags; these bags the daring fellow proposed, with the assistance of myself, to capture or destroy. His plan was this: We were to obtain, by some means, a horse and wagon, to be ready at a certain point a short distance from the camp, at sunset, and each proceed by different routes, in order that, better to avoid observation, and as soon as darkness fell upon the scene, drive cautiously within a few hundred yards of the dwelling containing the contemplated plunder. Then hiding the wagon in a neighboring clump of trees, some distance from the road, we were to proceed in such a manner as circumstances would admit. In answer to my enquiries as to the feasibility of procuring a wagon, and the possibility of our ever being able to load it even if we succeeded in coming in contact with the coveted bags, I was greeted by a significant wink and two or three slow successive nods of the head, which if not indicative of much intelligence, were quite indicative of the Zouave's determination to carry out his design.

The sun was declining when I started on my journey, taking a somewhat circuitous path to the place of rendezvous, and walking in an irregular, strolling manner the better to escape the observation of the comrades of my friend, who were always on the alert for any adventure. Behind a rising and well-wooded piece of ground, I soon discovered my friend H—, coolly seated in a one-horse wagon, smoking a short pipe, and at intervals philosophically lecturing a ragged son of Africa, upon the propriety of his meeting us at this same spot on the following night, in order to receive his horse and vehicle, and the desired remuneration for the use of them. After many doubtful scratches of his woolly head, and a singular expression of dissatisfaction—all of which were met with great disgust and heavy threats on the part of the Zouave of a marvellous punishment to be dealt out to the "muttonous 'darky,'" if he presumed to dog our path—he permitted us to depart, and we left him, evidently in a thick fog as to the fate of the property so inconsiderately entrusted to the safekeeping of a stranger.

After a short drive, during which but few words were spoken, we arrived at the spot where we had agreed to conceal the horse and wagon. This operation effected,

we next proceeded to calculate chances. After a few parting puffs, H— shook the ashes from his pipe, thrust it into the pocket of his jacket and drawing forth from the wagon a coil of fine rope, which he hung round his neck, gave the word to advance. It was now pitch dark; the distance from our place of destination was two hundred yards, according to my comrade's estimate. A solitary light, gleaming red amid the darkness ahead of us, betrayed the spot where stood the building which contained the object of our expedition. With this light for our guide, we cautiously advanced in silence, unbroken save by the occasional snapping of dried twigs beneath our feet, and the muttered malediction bestowed upon it by my companion.

At length we came into close proximity with the house. Everything seemed to be buried in a deep stillness. Not a sound did we hear. Not the warning growl of a dog gave notice of our approach. No light was visible but the one which had hitherto been our guide and this still shone from the half-closed casement of an apartment on the ground-floor. The window-sill was about as high from the ground as the ordinary height of a man, and under this we crept and listened for any sounds that might escape from the interior. Directly over this place H— told me our intended prize was concealed. He was thoroughly informed as to the relative position of the difficult passages necessary to pass through in order to gain the desired treasure. The darkness of the night was so dense that it was with difficulty we could discern the presence of each other as we lay and listened.

Suddenly there was a bustle within and the sound of several voices. The warning produced by the low, hissing "hush" of my comrade, prevented a half-uttered exclamation of surprise from fully escaping my lips. This noise of men and voices was evidently caused by a large party collected in the room in which the light was burning. They must have entered the house from the other side, and the clang of arms we distinctly heard the men carelessly lay aside their weapons, assured us they were no neutrals in the struggle going on between our divided countrymen.

From fatigue, arising from the constrained position in which I lay, I made a sudden movement which caused me to fall against my companion, at the same time making the gravel beneath my feet send forth the grating sound peculiar to it when suddenly and violently disturbed. In an instant the sounds within ceased, (silenced by the suspicions caused by my unfortunate stumbling,) the casement was dashed open, and half-a-dozen heads were thrust out into the gloom. A movement now, if no louder than that the lizard makes amongst the grass, or a single sigh forced from our beating hearts and compressed breath, would have been the forerunner of certain death. Nothing could save us from the fate of the spy. For several minutes we remained motionless, and heard various conjectures among the men as to the cause of their sudden alarm. Little did they imagine that at that moment, within a few feet of their knees, which more than one grasped in his hand unheeded, lay concealed in the darkness, two of the hated invaders. But we would have been found no easy sacrifice. Each of us covered with the muzzle of his revolver the breast of a foe, and the first intimation given of our discovery, would have cost them at least two lives that night.

At length they withdrew their heads into the apartment, half-closed the casement as before, and we were again alone. Whether they retired perfectly satisfied as to the result of their blind inspection or not, we could not tell. It was at this moment that H—, grasping me by the arm, whispered me to follow him closely. In crouching attitudes we crept round the building; each step taken with peculiar care, lest any unlucky sound on our part should again arouse suspicion, which in all probability were still unallayed.

After many cautious pauses and anxious straining of eye and ear, we reached the other side of the house, where after proceeding a few steps, my leader halted and began exploring with his hand, until it lighted upon the latch of a door in the wall. Placing his mouth close to my ear, he again whispered me that it was of vital importance we should cast off our shoes and carry them in our hands, as by leaving them behind they might be found by the enemy and thus become the means of betraying us. Accordingly, in a few seconds, we stood in our stockings, ready to pursue to the last limit the windings of the adventure. Noiselessly lifting the door-latch, H— led the way into a passage, if possible darker than the outside gloom from which we entered.

Groping our way we carefully advanced and reached the foot of a flight of stairs, which, at a sign from my companion, we ascended as swiftly as the imperative necessity for a perfect silence, permitted. We reached the landing, whose extent was hidden in the same impenetrable darkness, traversed it for the distance of several feet, and at length arrived at a door, which H— attempted to open but found locked. This he assured me was the room which contained the cartridge-bags, and not to gain an entrance into it would render all the risk we had hitherto run useless, as all further attempts we might make would prove unavailing.

At this crisis of our proceedings we discovered within a few feet of us a small window, which, on gently opening, we found led out upon the roof of the piazza that ran along all sides of the house. To step out upon this roof, closing the window after us as gently as we had opened it, was the work of a few seconds. Here we lay down at full length, for several minutes to listen; but no sound reached us, excepting an indistinct clamor proceeding from the room beneath in which was assembled the party of rebels. Relinquishing our recumbent postures, we crept on our hands and knees until we reached the next window, which belonged to the room we were so anxious to explore. To our great satisfaction, we found it not only unfastened but opened wide, and one after the other we passed through into the interior. Again we paused in motionless silence, and again we listened intently, but nothing beyond the sounds already mentioned met our ears, and we proceeded to search in darkness for the bags of ammunition. We came upon them simultaneously in one corner of the room, piled into a heap. We commenced our work at once by passing them out two at a time, through the window upon the piazza roof. Silently and swiftly was the task accomplished, until not a bag remained. We searched every foot of the floor, traversing its length and breadth, until we were thoroughly convinced ourselves were the sole objects, animate or inanimate, it contained.

Passing out, our next movement was to carry round the bags to the extreme end of the piazza. This involved the necessity of traversing the full length of one side of the building. With much labor and anxiety, as we had to proceed more warily than ever at each step, we at last accomplished it. And now we held a consultation, whether it were better to risk the attempt of carrying off our prize by degrees to the spot where we had concealed the wagon, or destroy it at once by lowering bag after bag into a deep well, H— informed me was directly beneath us as we leaned over the balcony of the piazza. We concluded the latter plan was the best, and accordingly my companion, uncoiling the rope he still carried round his neck and fastening one end of it to the balcony, rapidly descended, after telling me to haul up the other end again, attach it to the bags (three or four at a time) and lower them to him, when he would drop them singly into the well.

We had nearly finished this part of our task, when rendered reckless by the apparent security with which it was continued—the splashing of each bag into the well exciting no suspicion on the part of our dangerous neighbors at the other extremity of the dwelling—H— flung down into its depths the last three at once, instead of dropping them singly as he had hitherto done. At this moment the close proximity of approaching footsteps along the roof, made me turn in the direction whence the sound they caused proceeded, and instantly I was engaged in a deadly struggle with an antagonist.

The scene now became one of the wildest confusion. The rush of hostile feet along the roof bespoke the rapid advance of foes whose numbers it would be madness to contend with. Beneath, a desperate encounter was going on between my comrade and one or more of the rebels, as many a fierce oath testified. My left hand was firmly fastened on the throat of the man with whom I was contending, yet he clung to me with maddening tenacity. Reflection and action were the twin-born of an urgent second. With my right hand I had managed to draw and cock my revolver. My life and liberty were in the hands of a grasping foe. There was no compromise here; my life or his! Pressing the muzzle of my pistol to his head I fired, and he fell with scattered brains at my feet. The next instant I dropped from the balcony to the ground where H— was battling in close quarters. Here I stumbled over a fallen man. In the act of regaining my feet, my hand came in contact with his breast or side and was instantly bathed in a warm gush of streaming blood. "Where are you, H—?" I shouted.

"Here."

The response came from within a yard or two of the spot where I stood. I found my companion struggling on the ground, in savage fury, with a fellow evidently of much superior muscular power to himself. Quick as thought my strength was united to his, and with one concentrated, determined and desperate effort, we flung our herculean foe headlong down the well.

"This way," cried H—, and keeping close together we quickly reached our concealed wagon. To spring inside was the work of a second, and away we went for the camp. The Zouave drove, and his driving was like the driving of Jehu!

The Union.

JUNCTION, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1861.

LETTER FROM MADURA.

MADURA, Clay Co., Oct. 3, 1861.

Mr. Editor:—I have been requested by one of your friends to open a correspondence with your paper. I cannot make any large promises, but perhaps you may hear from me occasionally.

Your readers may wish to know where I can be found. Madura is the name we have given to the settlement on Hunter's Creek, about fifteen miles above your city, on the southwest bank of the Republican river. The settlement was commenced more than four years ago. Like most new places, we have had many comers and goers. At present, we have eight families and one single man, all of whom (with one exception) have farms on which they have made more or less improvement. Most of our houses are built of logs—one is of boards and one of stone. Hunter's Creek runs through several of the farms, furnishing an abundant supply of water for cattle; and on its banks, trees enough for fuel. Among us are found carpenters, masons and a blacksmith. We form a compact settlement. An unusual amount of first rate land here lies in a body. We think we have a beautiful location. If any one doubts it, let him come and see. Last summer we had a school of five boys. We are now erecting a stone school-house, thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. We hope, ere long to have a school, not only for our own children but for others, also, who may wish to attend and board with some of us. We usually have one religious service each Sabbath. We are laboring to lay the foundations of a well ordered, intelligent and religious community. Around us there remains much land to be possessed. We should be happy to receive additions to our number. We mean to treat those who come among us with due courtesy.

Yours, WM. TODD.

For the Union.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

EMPORIA, October 3, 1861.

Mr. Editor:—Since leaving your city, I have attended the courts of Judge Safford's district. At Manhattan we had the pleasure of excellent quarters at Coleman's, the Manhattan House—a hotel well-furnished, furnished, and admirably conducted. The session of the court was short, the business of the term being promptly dispatched. Few criminal cases—only one for trial—the case of Monroe being disposed of on motion. The bridge across the Blue is a great investment, and must become a paying institution. It is certainly a great convenience to the town and the travelling public. Mr. Humphrey, the Mayor of the city, and successor of Mr. De Vivaldi, is instilling, as you will perceive, new life and energy into the Express.

St. George was the next point of justice and pleas. The docket for Pottawatomie county detained the court for a whole week, disposing of some important cases, among which were the celebrated larceny indictments, and the mandamus case of the people of St. George versus the Probate Judge of Pottawatomie, involving the interests of Louisville and St. George in the county-seat matter. In the former, two of the prisoners were convicted for ten years, and *nolle* as to the balance, but all were finally released upon a motion in arrest of judgment, defects appearing on the face of the indictment. The mandamus case was decided adversely to the interests of St. George, leaving the next contest between Louisville and Mr. Union. The matter was argued with ability on both sides. Here I had the pleasure of listening to an able and eloquent war sermon from the Rev. Mr. White, of Ashland. Mr. White was zealous. He reasoned forcibly, and his Bible argument was overwhelming, demonstrating that our war was purely of defense.

From St. George the Judge went to Wabunsee, where the Grand Jury was empanelled, who retired under the usually able charge of the Court. There were not cases enough on the docket to require the presence of the petit jury, and it was accordingly dismissed. Thus far on the circuit the Court displayed much promptness and decision. Judge Safford has given great satisfaction. He will be above party or other bias, and be regarded where he is best known as the "upright Judge."

From Wabunsee to Council Grove I passed to the head of Mill Creek, along a beautiful little valley, extensively and well cultivated by intelligent Germans, among whom is Mr. Copp, at the head of the creek; from which we drove in a south-westerly direction for Council Grove over a beautiful prairie, until we arrived at the head of the east branch of the Neosho, when we came to another beautiful valley, gradually widening as we proceeded, as far down as this place.

Council Grove was the first town, after leaving Wabunsee, and is on the Santa Fe road, at the crossing of the Neosho. It is already a thriving town. It has some fine buildings, and a large hotel, the Gilkey House, which is creditable to the town. A large Union meeting was held there during my stay, and much interest manifested.

We next passed Americus, the former county-seat of Breckinridge county, situated on a high and rolling prairie. Emporia, the place from which I write you, is a flourishing town, in which are many good managers, has succeeded in getting away the county seat. Emporia is at the junction of the Cottonwood with the Neosho, has the advantage of large bodies of timber in the vicinity, is beautifully located, and surrounded by a fertile and wealthy country. It is destined to make a place of importance. There are three churches here, and are said to be in a flourishing condition, an excellent hotel, the Emporia House, by N. S. Storrs, formerly of the Renick House, Leavenworth. He knows how to keep a first class hotel. The town is a place of considerable business.

SANFORD.

ELECTION PROCLAMATION.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State, an election will be held on the FIFTH day of NOVEMBER next, for the election of the following officers, to-wit:

- REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE.
- 1st District, Doniphan County, four members.
 - 2d District, Atchison and Brown Counties, six members.
 - 3d District, Nemaha, Washington and Marshall Counties, two members.
 - 4th District, Clay, Riley and Pottawatomie Counties, four members.
 - 5th District, Dickinson, Davis and Wabunsee Counties, three members.
 - 6th District, Shawnee, Jackson and Jefferson Counties, eight members.
 - 7th District, Leavenworth County, nine members.
 - 8th District, Douglas, Johnson and Wyandott Counties, thirteen members.
 - 9th District, Miami, Lyon and Bourbon Counties, nine members.
 - 10th District, Allen, Anderson and Franklin Counties, six members.
 - 11th District, Woodson and Madison Counties, two members.
 - 12th District, Coffey, Osage and Breckenridge Counties, six members.
 - 13th District, Morris, Chase and Butler Counties, two members.
 - 14th District, Arrapahoe, Godfrey, Hunter, Greenwood, Wilson, Dorn and McGee Counties, one member.

TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE SENATE.

- 2d District, two Senators, in place of H. R. Dutton, appointed treasurer, and J. A. Martin, appointed to office under the Federal Government.
- 4th District, one Senator, in place of S. D. Houston, appointed to office by the President of the United States.
- 6th District, one Senator, in place of H. W. Farnsworth, appointed to office.
- 8th District, one Senator, in place of Josiah Miller, appointed to office.
- 9th District, one Senator, in place of J. C. Burnett, appointed to office.
- 10th District, one Senator, in place of P. P. Elder, appointed to office.

STATE OFFICERS.

- State Treasurer, in place of Wm. Tholen, who failed to qualify.
- Attorney General, in place of B. F. Simpson, resigned.

JUDICIARY.

- Fifth District, Osage, Coffey, Woodson, Greenwood, Madison, Breckenridge, Morris, Chase, Butler and Hunter Counties, a District Judge, in place of O. E. Leonard, absent from the State.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

A District Attorney will be elected for each Judicial District in the State, who shall hold his office for two years.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

There will be elected, in each county, one Sheriff, one Coroner, three County Commissioners, one County Clerk, one County Treasurer, one Register of Deeds, one County Surveyor and one County Assessor.

STATE CAPITAL.

An election for the permanent location of the State Capital, will be held at the same time and places.

Sec. 2. The voting at said election shall be by ballot, and on each ballot shall be written or printed the words, "For State Capital," and the name of the place voted for.

Sec. 3. The judges of election, at each precinct, shall keep a separate tally list for the votes cast for the situation of a permanent Capital, and the election herein provided for shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the State, in force at the time of holding said election respectively, as far as the same shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

A vote will be taken for or against the proposed amendment to Section seven, Article thirteen, of the Constitution, as published by the Secretary of State. The election to be governed, and returns made, in all respects, in accordance with the laws pertaining to election of Representatives. The ballots used shall be written or printed, as follows: "For amendment of Section seven, Article thirteen," or, "Against amendment of Section seven, Article thirteen," as the case may be.

BANKING LAW.

At the same time and places, a vote will be taken for or against the Banking Law, as published by the Secretary of State. The ballots used shall be written or printed, as follows: "For Banking Law," or, "Against Banking Law," as the case may be; and the returns shall be made in accordance with the election law of this State.

The Election Law provides:

Sec. 5. That it shall be the duty of the Sheriff, and he is hereby required, fifteen days at least before the holding of any general election, or ten days before the holding of any special election, to give public notice by proclamation throughout his county, of the time of holding such elections, and the officers at that time to be chosen, one copy of which shall be posted up at each of the places where the elections are appointed to be held, and inserted in some newspaper published in the county, if any be published therein.

Sec. 6. That at all elections held under this act, the polls shall be opened between the hours of eight o'clock in the morning, and closed at six in the evening of the same day.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State, at Topeka, this 30th day of September, A. D. 1861.

C. ROBINSON.

By the Governor,

J. W. ROBINSON, Sec'y of State.

REBEL MOVEMENTS.

It may not be a mere supposition that the rebels have fallen back from the Potomac, opposite Washington, to their strong position of Manassas, for the purpose of detaching a part of their forces for active service in a new field—Kentucky. The want of efficient preparation to resist attack on the Federal camps in that State, and the impracticability of McClellan's earthworks at Alexandria and Arlington, seem to invite a change of the rebel plan, and a transfer of the seat of war to the fertile regions of the West. That such a change is practicable and easy, is apparent when we remember that in the fortified camp in Manassas, half of their army, if it is as large as rumor makes it, could defy any force that we could send against it, while the forty or fifty thousand cleaved off, and sent by rail to Tennessee and the border of Kentucky, would be an overmatch for anything we have in that Commonwealth, or that could be got there before infinite mischief was done. If such a movement as this is on foot, we shall first hear of it by Beauregard's advance toward Lexington at the head of a column of 70,000 to 100,000 fighting men, threatening Cincinnati, Louisville and all other places within his reach.

RATTLESNAKES VS. REBELS.—A Western Virginia paper perpetrates the following: "The best piece of satire upon the licentiousness observed by the authorities in reference to rebels found committing depredations is in the shape of a story, which is told, we believe, by Governor Pierpont. As the story goes, some of the soldiers in General Cox's camp down in Kanawha, recently caught a large rattlesnake. The snake manifested a most mischievous disposition, snapping and thrusting out its forked tongue at all who came near it. The boys at last got tired of the reptile, and as nobody wanted such a dangerous companion, the question arose, 'What shall we do with him?' This question was propounded several times, without an answer, when a half-drunk soldier, who was lying upon his back, rolled upon his side, and relieved his companions by quietly remarking: 'D—n it, swear 'im and let 'im go!'"

There is now no choice but civil war or anarchy. The first cannot endure, the last is endless. The first has horrors indescribable, but the last comprises all the woes of the earth to civilized man. With the plain issue before the American people, they have left no alternative. We must consent to an obliteration of nationality—to an ignominious confession of imbecility to the civilized world—to a brand of shame and puerility upon our ancestor's head—or else assert the power of our government against its enemies, at home as well as abroad.—*Senator Latham.*